

Serial No.: 10/688,224
 Examiner: Catherine S. Williams
 Group Art Unit: 3763

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-28 are presently pending. Claims 4 and 18-28 were previously withdrawn as belonging to a non-elected species. Claims 2 and 13 were also withdrawn in the Final Office Action as belonging to a non-elected species. Thus, claims 1, 3 and 5-12, and 14-17 are currently under examination, of which claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 8-12 are considered generic.

Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 2, and 8 and amended allowed claims 3, 7, 12, and 17 to place them in independent format. Claims 4, 5, 13, and 14 have been amended to depend upon an allowed claim. Applicant has also reinserted previously withdrawn claims (2 and 4) directed to additional species. Withdrawn claim 2 has been cancelled and added as new claim 33 that properly depends upon allowed generic claim 3. Withdrawn claim 4 has been amended to depend upon allowed generic claim 3. Applicant has also added new claims 29-32, which depend upon allowed claims 3, 7, 12, and 17, respectively and are readable upon the elected species. Support for new claim 29 is provided in the specification on page 10, line 9 to page 12, line 10. Applicant states that there is no issue of new matter.

REMARKS

The Examiner stated that claims 3, 7, 12, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. These claims have not been rejected over the cited art and are thus allowable.

In response, Applicant has amended claims 3, 7, 12, and 17 to place them in independent format. Applicant respectfully states that the objection has been obviated and thus, these claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant also requests consideration and allowance of claims directed to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.141. Thus, Applicant hereby requests reentry and consideration of withdrawn claim 2 (now claim 30) and claim 4, both of which now depend upon allowed generic claim 3.

In the Office Action, the Examiner maintained her rejection of claims 1, 5-6, 8-11 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bhat (U.S. Pat. No. 6,645,135).

In response, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, to facilitate the prosecution of the application, Applicant has cancelled independent claims 1 and 8.

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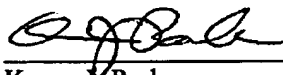
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700, ext. 7 in order to resolve any outstanding issues. The Office is authorized to charge any fees required to deposit account number 50-1047.

FEEs

The Office is authorized to charge any fees required, to deposit account number 50-1047.

Respectfully submitted,



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